



Project visit report December 2021

Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility (FiPSR) in cooperation with Finnish-Arab Friendship society (FAFS) meeting with Beit Atfal Assumoud (BAS) in Lebanon

4.12.-11.12.2021 Sirku Kivistö, Veera Nieminen and 4.-7.12.2021 Dr Anu Castaneda,
6.12.-12.12.2021 Nina Lyytinen

The objective of our trip: To get feedback from the year 2020 and plan the further cooperation.

What we prepared with the staff of BAS during the visit:

*Preparing the project application and budget for the years 2023-2026

The solidarity work supporting mental health program and schooling the children with multiple special needs MSN will continue. We discussed in several occasions about the possible application of support from Foreign Ministry. Dec 9th we left request to get a proposal for the project. Earlier Dr Madeleina Badaro Taha and psychologist Liliane Younes have written the proposals, but now we addressed the request to Dr Muna Khalidi and coordinator Khawla Khalaf, in cooperation with Director Kassem Aina. Our request:

“A request for ideas for the next project application, 9.12.2021

Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility has decided to be willing to apply a new cooperation project with Beit Atfal Assumoud to support the mental health program.

The funding of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland is not issued for the “basic work” (like salaries for the core work) of partner organizations. The project needs to be fixed-term, have a clear exit plan and include clear objectives that produce for example a procedure that continues in the partner organizations’ or communitys’ activities after exiting.

In the conversations with FGC workers needs were expressed for example in the following themes: staff skills in facilitating group activities, supporting groups for parents, awareness sessions and campaigns. Also the need to support the resilience of the employees in hard work during hard times was conveyed during the conversations.

Because BAS workers know best what could be truly beneficial for the employees of the organization, FiPSR wishes to have a request from BAS about project idea(s) that serve as a starting point for project preparation. The call the applications from January to the end of February 2022. If possible, FiPSR wishes to have the project idea from BAS during December 2021.”

After getting the proposal idea, we will cooperate with BAS in forming the project plan and financial support application, adjusting the request and budget in the scheme of the Ministry.

*Deciding the use of support money by The Finnish Psychological Association under the title “Psychosocial support for the mental health program, Family Guidance Centers (granted support year 2022 4500 € and year 2023 4500 €). – We did not decide about the use of this resource yet.

*Veera Nieminen and Sirkku Kivistö Interviewed psychologist Mohammad Arrabi about the actual situation in mental health program and the work of psychologist. Mohammad has opened the concept “sponsored psychologist” in the mental health program and we thank him for all the information during the year 2020. In order to familiarize other psychologists to the Finnish audience, we might propose to get the next psychologist, who would be willing to give the contribution in the frame of “the sponsored psychologist”. This way FiPSR tries to get new sponsors the mental health program,

*Prepared with Mr Diab Kassem and Ms Sara Al Sayed the financial report 2021 (all the items belonging to the transferred money from 2020>2021 are used and possible to report in 2021 report). We had the meeting also with the external auditor, Mr Raghid Adass, and learned about the risk management in financial management. We will get 4 financial reports; FiPSR and FAFS about the transferred project money from 2020 to 2021, and the reports of the support year 2021.

*The Stress reduction ToT training and completion of the course was facilitated by psychologist Nina Lyytinen. The 10 participants in the ToT course graduated and got their trainer license. The training will be evaluated by psychologists Anna Tienhaara and Reetta Puuronen.

*Meetings with the sponsored children. We met children in the Family happiness program, sponsored through Finnish Arab Friendship Society (7) and children with MSN sponsored through Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility (5).

*Meeting with NORWAC, UNRWA? Meeting FIME? WHO Lebanon, contact person Edwina Zoghbi (not scheduled) – We met shortly Mr Bendik Sorvig, and learned the the country responsve of NORWAC will change. To UNRWA and WHO Lebanon we did not have contact during thois visit. Staff of Finnish Institute in Middle East we met in the Independence Day reception.

*Feedback of the work 2021, coordinator’s review about the year 2021 in mental health program, progress in implementation of the new strategy, stress reduction, teleworking, laptops and installing connections between FGCs, overview of the progress reports (n=39) 2020-2021 of the children with MSN etc. – We have requested to get from head of the mental health program, Dr Muna Khalidi, coordinator, Ms Khawla Khalaf and facilitator Lamia Al Fattal in cooperation with Director Kassem Aina a report of the implementation of the new strategic plan. The amended strategy has completed the second year form the time 2020-2024,

Daily schedule

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| 4.12. Saturday | Arrival in Beirut at 21.35 from Istanbul, Veera Nieminen and Anu Castaneda settling down in Mayflower, Sirkku Kivistö in Arrawas department. Nina Lyytinen joins in the program on Dec 6 th |
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| 5.12. Sunday | At 10 in Shatila center, discussion with the social workers, seeing the activities of children, and meeting also some sponsored children. Veera Nieminen met 3 sponsored FH children, and Sirkku Kivistö 2. Also, Sirkku Kivistö and group met one sponsored MSN-child in his home, accompanied by social workers Jamile Shehadeh and Zuhour Akkawi. |
| 6.12. Monday | <p>9:00 Morning in the main office: Greetings from Finland and delivery of the knitwear and gifts from the sponsors, and the cash money for some assistance purposes Change of Euros to L.L. for travellers by the help of accounting department,t hanks a lot.</p> <p>Meeting with the accounting department, review of the project financial situation concerning especially the ear-marked costs of the rest money of the closed project from 2020 Meeting with Fatima Khaizaran, Sirkku will present a review of the Family happiness - reports 2021 (the report was not ready yet).</p> <p>12:00 meeting with social workers of FGC Beirut: Ms Hanane Dabdoub, Ms Zakia Abboud, Ms Israa Abdellatif. Discussion e.g. about the staff training in community based mental health practice.</p> <p>Sirkku Kivistö met one grandmother of the sponsored MSN child, and 2 other MSN children with their mothers.</p> <p>Then we got transport to the Embassy At 17-19 Reception at the Ambassador’s Residence, in Achrafieh, Sursock, Najib Trad Street, Ibrahim Sursock Residences, Apartment G6, and participated in the celebration of the Independence Day. Short information to HE Ambassador , Ms Tarja Fernandez about our work Meeting with Ms Emma Pajunen and Mr Taavi Sundell & other Finns. Also we met the honorary consul of Finland, Mr Zafer Chaoui. We did not get information about, if Embassy has accepted the application of local cooperation fund of BAS (Project Entrepreneurship & vocational training for the school dropout girls in Palestinian camps.” for the next step in the application process.</p> |
| 7.12. Tue | <p>Visit to FGC Saida in the morning, discussion with staff members who are available on Wednesday. Met also the new director of Ein el-Helweh center, Mr Mahmoud Abou Hamdeh, learned about the activities (e.g. daily workers, children in streets), and Veera met one sponsored FH child. Hamza AbedAlatif Husari (MSN) by Sirkku Kivistö</p> <p>Afternoon in FGC El-Buss, updating discussion with the staff members, continuing with Khawla: Meeting with Khawla and Nina to fix the program of Stress reduction ToT training and budget for the training (4341 €, transfer from 2020 project money) -implementation and results of the 6 strategic goals in the updated strategy (1(community based approach across all centers 2) resources for prevention and early intervention 3) On-line mental health support model 4) Monitoring, evaluation and leaning (MEL) platform 5) realistic resource mobilisation plan to meet community needs 6) reforms of management structure and practices and enhanced coordination within and among the centers. -preparation of the project plan and budget for the Ministry application (deadline March 4th 2022) to continue Ministry supported cooperation (anyway, solidarity work of FiPSR continues by own fundraising efforts)</p> |

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| | <p>We asked Khawla to prepare with financial department the report of the costs of MSN children during 2021: tuition fees, medicine and medical and transportation costs.</p> <p>Seeing one sponsored child with MSN by Sirkku Kivistö. Others had a guided walking tour in the camp.</p> |
| Wed 8.12. | <p>9:00 Meeting in main office in the morning Collecting information from financial department for the Ministry application. Finalizing the ToT stress reduction program by Nina. Interview of Mr Raghid Adass about the prevention of corrupted practices in the severely corrupted state Lebanon. Visit in the Embroidery Center Meeting through WhatsApp with Dr Madeleine Badaro Taha by Veera and Sirkku.</p> |
| 9.12. Thu | <p>ToT stress reduction training day 9.00-15.00, in Mar Elias Center, facilitated by psychologist Nina Lyytinen. Veera, Sirkku in the main office: the program Continuing the preparations for the new project plan, collecting data for the project plan, etc. Planning meeting for the new project by Sirkku and Veera in the main office, reflecting the discussions with the staff members. Prepared a proposal for familiarization meeting for the new psychiatrists with De Muna, Ms Khawla, Ms Hanane. Short visit in Shatila Center.</p> |
| 10.12. Fri | <p>Sirkku and Veera will join the ToT day “trainers in action” in Mar Elias center. Day will be facilitated by Nina.</p> <p>Second training day “trainers in action” the trainees will give a planned stress reduction workshop for other BAS kindergarten teachers. This was done in small groups 9.00-11.30 and then 11.30-12.30 lunch and feedback from the participants, 12.30-14.30. Veera and Sirkku met psychologist Mohamad Arrabi and interviewed him for the information articles in Finland. Sirkku called Dr Muna Khalidi about the new project plan preparation. She promised to be available.</p> <p>Meeting Dir Kassem Aina after his return from Italy in the evening with Nina, Veera, Sirkku. We reported about the visit week, and delivered the proposals (idea for new project, familiarization with the help of Dr Madeleine for the new psychiatrists about practice of medical orders for the MSN children etc., request of evaluation of the two year of implementation of the new strategy in mental health program.</p> |
| 11.12. | <p>Graduation and celebration day of the Stress reduction ToT by Nina. The day will start with a stress reduction session for the trainees and continue to a celebration.</p> |

*Meeting for information about the visit themes in Central Library Oodi, group room 3, 16.12.2021 at 17.30-19.30. facilitated by Sirkku and Nina, however with zoom-connection to a larger public.
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